

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: FAUQUIER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 18 1972	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	UPPERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
AND/OR HISTORIC:	UPPERVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

VHLC File # 700-64

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: see continuation sheet 1			
CITY OR TOWN: Upperville (William Lloyd Scott, Eighth District Congressman)			
STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: Fauquier	CODE 061

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple ownership	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Upperville	STATE: Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Fauquier County Court House	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Warrenton	STATE: Virginia

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1953 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress	
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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VIRGINIA  
COUNTY:  
FAUQUIER

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Upperville is a linear village extending along U.S. Route 50 for approximately one mile. The linear aspect of the town was acquired as part of a conscious plan rather than through evolution. As the town was originally laid out all but about six of the original fifty lots faced onto Route 50. This layout generally has been maintained to the present day for the town has seen no significant expansion since the War between the States. Upperville is chiefly a residential community, and one that has remained prosperous in spite of its lack of growth. Situated up and down Route 50 are well-maintained free-standing houses set in spacious yards planted with shrubbery and large shade trees. Many of the trees arch over the street, adding to the bucolic aspect of the community. Fortunately Route 50 has not been significantly widened and no concrete curbs or gutters have been installed along it. Thus with the retention of many of the old footpaths as well as brick or stone walks, the public ways have kept the picturesque informality so essential to the character of an historic community.

The lack of Upperville's growth is reflected in the character of the town's architecture. Of the community's some seventy-five buildings at least fifty are nineteenth century and well over half of these date prior to 1860. A few of Upperville's earlier houses such as the Joseph Carr houses and the Doctor Smith House are built of stone. Most of the houses, however, especially those dating from the first decade of the nineteenth century, are built of either brick or frame. The town's dwellings, while commodious and well proportioned are not pretentious. For the most part they are simple, somewhat provincial adaptations of their sophisticated counterparts in more urban centers such as Alexandria or Georgetown. Although Greek Revival and Italianate influences can be seen in several of the houses, the town's predominant style is what might be called country Federal, a style which usually takes the form of a two-story rectangular structure of either stone, brick or frame, with three to five bays, end chimneys and a gable roof.

Upperville's commercial district is insignificant, consisting of a general store, two additional unoccupied store buildings and an antique shop. Towards each end of the town are one or two nondescript gasoline stations. Upperville's architectural focal point is the group of buildings belonging to Trinity Episcopal Church, built in the 1950's. Located in the approximate center of town, the simple, but beautifully crafted French Medieval style church is set parallel to Columbia Street. The church faces onto a handsome forecourt that is bounded on two other sides by the rectory and parish house. Forming an architecturally unified grouping, all three buildings were built at the same time and of the same cream-colored stone.

The town's other chief architectural landmark, the United Methodist Church is located just off Route 50, on Route 712. This handsome late-Federal style structure is set in a picturesque burial ground, and features a distinctive demi-domed apse on the rear and an unusual serpentine gallery on the interior. Opposite the church is a two-story brick house built as the minister's residence in 1832, the same year the church was begun.

The rural quality of Upperville is enhanced by the fact that it has suffered little or no unsightly 'strip' development along its fringes. The fortuitous existence of numerous prosperous estates on all sides of the town have acted as a shield to this kind of expansion. The rear lots of nearly

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 3. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☒ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☒ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | losophy   | local history                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                  | sporting (equine)                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-            | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian   | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation           | _____   |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The small linear hamlet of Upperville survives as one of the most picturesque and unspoiled villages in northern Virginia. Located in the midst of beautiful, well-tended farmland, the small town serves as a focal point for Virginia's famous "Hunt Country". Indeed, its association with the equine sports has given the town national fame. Upperville is the home of the country's oldest horse show, founded in 1853 by Richard Henry Dulany of nearby Welbourne, and just on the outskirts of the town, around the general site of the Piedmont Point-to-Point, was located what is believed to be the first race track in northern Virginia, dating from 1760. Also, on one of the galleries of an early inn in Upperville took place the signing of the rules of the 1905 American-English Foxhound Trials by the noted sportsmen Harry Worcester Smith and A. Henry Higginson.

Upperville officially dates from 1818 when it was established as a town by Act of the General Assembly. However, the town was actually laid out some twenty years earlier, in 1797, by Joseph (or Josephus) Carr; and the fifty acres on which Carr marked out thirty lots was originally known as Carrtown. Joseph Carr established himself in the area around 1780 and erected a combination residence and general store on what was then the Alexandria-Winchester Turnpike. This substantial stone structure, probably the oldest dwelling in Upperville, was built near what is now the western edge of town, in front of an already existing mill operated by the McPherson family. The mill later was destroyed by Union forces and only a few ruins and a later brick miller's house remain at the site.

It is not known exactly when the town ceased to be called Carrtown in favor of Upperville. Local tradition has it that prior to the official establishment, reference was made to the "Upper" and "Lower" end of town, and the upper end prevailed, hence the name Upperville. As Carr planned the town, the lower, or west end, was devoted to commerce, and the upper, or east end, was designated for residences. This scheme generally has been preserved to the present day.

The Carr family, along with the town, prospered in the last years of the eighteenth century and the first years of the next. In 1796 Carr built a new stuccoed stone house for himself in the east end of town, and in 1810 his son, Caldwell Carr, built a handsome two-story brick house (the earliest of that material in Upperville) in the opposite end of town. Both these houses survive. Some of the town's other prominent early houses include the picturesque 1830's stone house of Doctor Thomas Smith, Upperville's first practicing physician. Near the town's center is a handsome two-story Federal style brick dwelling built in 1826. Its adjacent stone office is

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chappellear, B. Curtis, Maps and Notes Pertaining to Upper Section of Fauquier Co., 1954.

Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee, Fauquier County Virginia 1759-1959, 1959.

Slater, Kitty, "Upperville, Virginia, Cliff Dweller of the Hunt Country," Spur of Virginia, Winter, 1971.

Archives of Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	38°	59'	54"	77°	53'	52"		
NE	38°	59'	54"	77°	51'	56"		
SE	38°	59'	08"	77°	51'	56"		
SW	38°	59'	08"	77°	53'	52"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 480 acres.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE: January, 1972
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Richmond,	STATE: Virginia
	CODE: 51

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date

JAN 18 1972

JAN 18 1972

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

OCT 18 1972

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

OCT 18 1972

ATTEST:

OCT 18 1972

Keeper of The National Register

Date

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1. (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

2.

Approximate boundaries: Loudoun-Fauquier County line on the north, Rt. 719 on the east, an imaginary line extending .3 mi. south of and parallel to Rt. 50 on the south, and Panther Skin Creek on the west.

6.

Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

7.

all of Upperville's houses face directly onto open countryside, and the entrance into town from either east or west is directly from open country.

8.

now used as the Upperville library. Probably the town's most architecturally sophisticated house is a brick Greek Revival townhouse with a small Ionic porch, located on what was designated as lot 35 on the 1828 plat of the town drawn by George Love. Further east, on the opposite side of Route 50 is a two-story frame structure, now known as Ball's Bluff, which was built in the early nineteenth century and originally housed the Upperville Academy.

Religion has played an important part in the life of Upperville's residents, and several distinguished church buildings stand as evidence of this fact. The town's oldest church, the United Methodist Church, begun in 1832, is a notable example of rural Federal style architecture. During the War between the States the church was commandeered by Union forces and used as a hospital. Following the war the U.S. Congress authorized payment to the congregation for damages. The town's Victorian Gothic style Baptist Church, erected in 1870, is the descendant of the Goose Creek Church, founded in 1775, and originally located between Upperville and Middleburg. Trinity Episcopal Church, founded in 1840, has been housed in three buildings. The parish's present building, a magnificent structure in the style of a Medieval French parish church was erected over a period of several years in the mid-1950's, and was the gift of Mr. Paul Mellon who resides on a nearby farm. The church is the town's most conspicuous landmark, and its architecturally unified parish house and rectory form one of the finest church complexes for any rural town in the country.

Although Upperville is situated along a busy highway, a strong local pride in the town's historic character and other civilized amenities has spared it from succumbing to the unplanned commercial development that has marred so many of its neighbors.

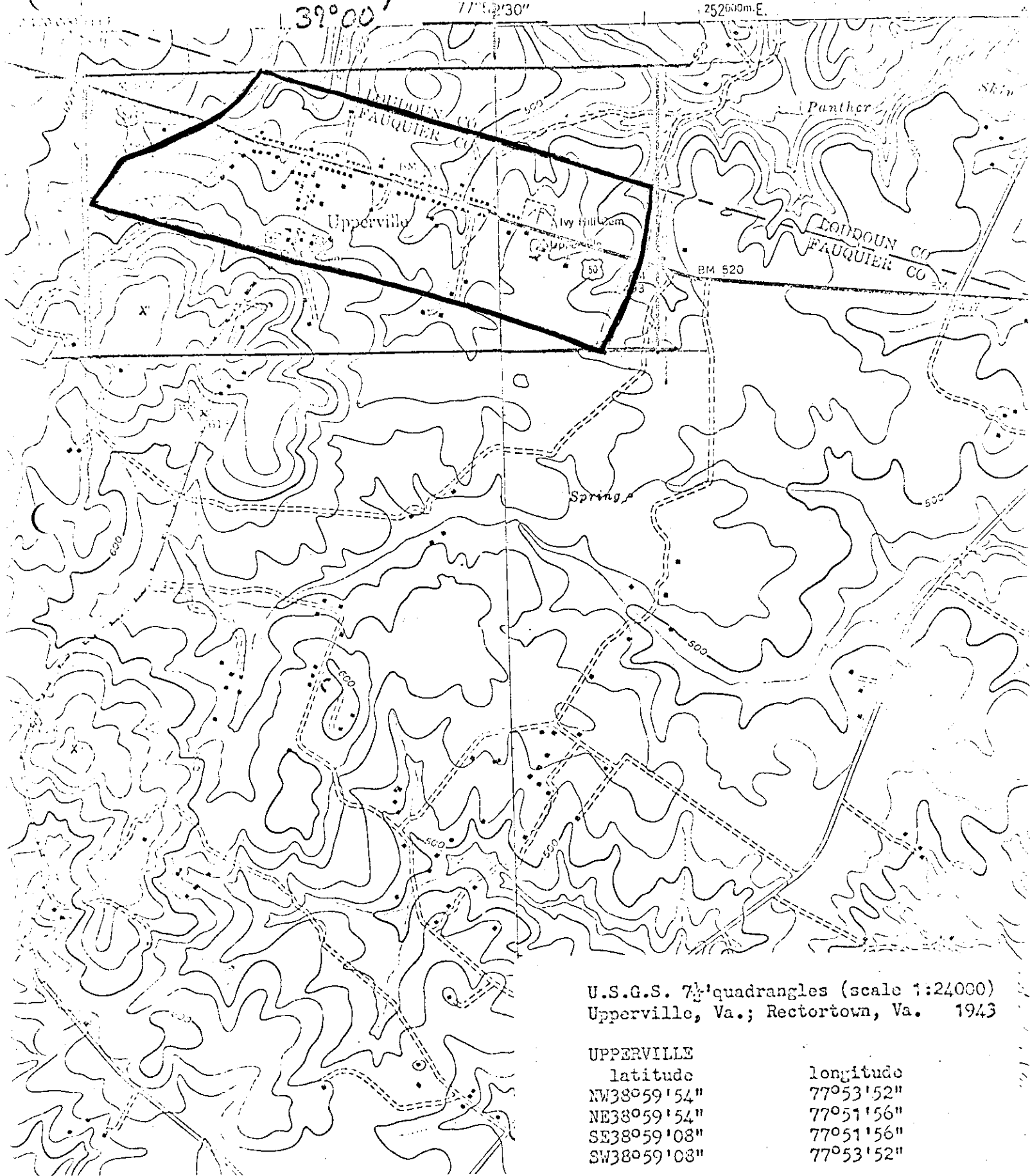
UPPERVILLE QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

39°00'

77°52'30"

252600m. E.



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangles (scale 1:24,000)  
Upperville, Va.; Rectortown, Va. 1943

UPPERVILLE

latitude  
NW38°59'54"  
NE38°59'54"  
SE38°59'08"  
SW38°59'08"

longitude  
77°53'52"  
77°51'56"  
77°51'56"  
77°53'52"